These schemes, since October, 2000, have been, subsumed in macro management scheme "Supplementation/Complementation of States efforts through Work Plan". The States/UTs can continue to pursue above programmes, under work plan with greater flexibility as per their needs.

Classification of Rubber/Cotton Product Under WTO

2147. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural rubber has been classified in the WTO Agreement as an Industrial product and Cotton as an agricultural product;

(b) if so, the criteria applied in classification of these products;

(c) whether natural rubber by its nature, is purely agricultural; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to re-categories natural rubber as an agricultural product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The WTO Agreement on Agricultural, essentially, covers chapter 1 to 24 of the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). However, fish and fish products, though in parts of chapter 3 & 16 of HS have been excluded from the purview of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. Similarly, certain commodities like raw cotton, waste and cotton carded or combed, raw flex, raw hemp and hides and skins, though not covered under chapter 1—24 of the HS have been covered under the Agreement on Agriculture. Specific inclusion or exclusion of any product from the purview of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture was a result of mutual negotiations and agreement amongst WTO members.

(c) and (d) In its initial negotiating proposals submitted to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for the mandated negotiations under Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture, India has demanded rationalization of the product coverage of the Agreement

by including primary agricultural commodities such as rubber, jute and coir, under the Agreement on Agriculture.

Decline in Agricultural Yield

2148. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per acre yield of major agricultural products in the country has declined recently, compared to that in the neighbouring countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The productivity of important agriculture products such as paddy, wheat, repeseed and cotton in India has been generally increasing over the year. Although it is higher compared to that of countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Iran, Myanmar, Turkey in case of wheat, it is lower compared to that of some other countries like Japan and China. The crop-wise details of productivity in respect of some of neighbouring countries are given in the Statement I to IV (*See* below).

The productivity depends on a number of factors such as conditions of soil, facilities of irrigation, duration of the crop (gestation period between sowing and harvest), quality of seeds, timely application of quality inputs, managerial skills of farmers and availability of credit. Since these factors vary a great deal from region to region and country to country, so does the productivity.